

**METHOD AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT
FOR PROCESSING SIGNED APPLETS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A framework for processing signed applets that are distributed over the Internet. Using the framework, an applet that is packaged as a Netscape- or JDK-signed jar file, or as an Internet Explorer-signed cab file, is processed within the same Java runtime environment irrespective of the browser type (i.e. Netscape Communicator, Internet Explorer or JDK) used to execute the applet. When the applet is executed, the framework verifies one or more applet signatures using the same algorithm that was used to sign the applet, verifies the signer(s) of the applet, and stores information about the signers so that they can be honored by a security policy when permissions for the applet are determined.

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